

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 CU-02

SCS-03 SCA-01 SY-05 OPR-02 A-01 SCCT-01 OMB-01 /069 W

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R 201036Z FEB 76

FM AMCONSUL KADUNA

TO AMEMBASSY LAGOS

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 3291

C O N F I D E N T I A L KADUNA 0194

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PINS, NI

SUBJECT: ATMOSPHERICS: JOS AND ZARIA

1. PO HAD TWO CONVERSATIONS WITH AMERICANS YESTERDAY WHICH SHED SOME FURTHER LIGHT ON TENSE ATMOSPHERE WHICH PREVAILS IN VARIOUS AREAS OF NORTH.

2. AMERICAN DOCTOR WHO CONTRACT EMPLOYEE (PSYCHIATRIST) OF 44 ARMED FORCES HOSPITAL CALLED IN YESTERDAY TO CHAT ABOUT TRAVEL AS MEMBER MILITARY MEDICAL INSPECTION TEAM DURING PAST WEEK TO KANO, JOS, BAUCHI AND MINNA. TEAM TRAVELLED FROM KADUNA TO KANO ON FEBRUARY 12 (DAY BEFORE ATTEMPTED COUP) AND DEPARTED CITY ON FEBRUARY 14. DOCTOR SAID THAT ALTHOUGH THE ATMOSPHERE IN KANO WAS ELECTRIC AFTER DIMKA'S RADIO ANNOUNCEMENT, HE HAD NOT SEEN OR HEARD OF ANY COMMUNAL VIOLENCE. HE ADDED THAT FROM TIME NEWS OF ATTEMPTED COUP RECEIVED KANO UNTIL RADIO STARTED CARRYING LOYALIST ANNOUNCEMENTS, STATE OF MILITARY OFFICERS HE OBSERVED WAS ONE OF VIRTUAL PARALYSIS. IN JOS, HE SAID, MOOD OF MILITARY OFFICERS WAS VERY UGLY. HE OVERHEARD ONE FIELD GRADE OFFICER THIS WEEK VEHEMENTLY ARGUING THAT UK HIGH COMMISSION SHOULD BE INVESTED BY MILITARY IN ORDER TO GET DIMKA "DEAD OR ALIVE AND TO HELL WITH DIPLOMATS AND IMMUNITY."

3. SECOND CONVERSATION WAS WITH PCV DWAYNE HARMS WHO
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CURRENTLY WORKING IN ATHLETICS AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION AT

AHMADU BELLO UNIVERSITY. HARMS SAID THAT WHILE ATMOSPHERE FAIRLY TENSE AROUND CAMPUS, THE WORST INCIDENT HE HAD ENCOUNTERED WAS DRUNKEN TIRADE BY STUDENT THAT NIGERIA WAS FULL OF CIA AGENTS WHO SHOULD ALL BE KICKED OUT OF COUNTRY. HARMS SAID HE WAS KEEPING HIS EYES AND EARS OPEN AND ON FIRST INDICATION THAT SITUATION DETERIORATING, HE WOULD PROCEED TO KADUNA OR LAGOS. HE AVOIDING PUBLIC PLACES AND CROWDS. HE COMMENTED RATHER CAUSTICALLY ABOUT STUPIDITY OF SOME AMERICAN CONTRACT FACULTY MEMBERS WHO ATTENDED STUDENT RALLY AFTER DEATH OF CHIEF OF STATE ANNOUNCED. THEY WENT OSTENSIBLY TO SHOW THEIR SYMPATHY AND SOLIDARITY WITH STUDENTS. FOR THEIR PAINS THEY WERE SURROUNDED AT ONE POINT AND TOOK CONSIDERABLE VERBAL BUT NOT REPEAT NOT PHYSICAL ABUSE. PO TOLD HARMS THAT HIS EVALUATION OF THE SITUATION WAS USEFUL AND HIS ATTITUDE OF COMMON SENSE WATCHFULNESS AND READINESS TO LEAVE IN EVENT TROUBLE SEEMED IMMINENT SEEMED EXACTLY WHAT SITUATION CALLED FOR. PO SAID THAT THERE SEEMED TO BE SOME CONCERN IN LAGOS ABOUT HARMS' WELFARE BUT THAT IN VIEW OF HIS COMMON SENSE APPROACH THERE DID NOT SEEM TO BE ANY REASON TO TRY AND SECOND-GUESS HIM FROM KADUNA OR LAGOS.

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